(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted about these incidents;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the number of officials and others responsible for the riots;

(e) the number of arrests made in that regard;

(f) whether these communal riots were flared up due to statement made by some leaders to the effect that U. N. force should be called in India; and

(g) if so, the action taken against those persons for making such statements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Incidents of serious communal violence did take place in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during October, November and December, 1990. However, the communal violence at Gonda had taken place from 30th September to 4th October, 1990.

(b) and (c) The communal situation in the country in the recent past has been subjected to certain tensions because of Ram Janma Bhoomi Babri Masjid controversy. Riots, however, are essentially the handiwork of anti-social and anti-national elements.

(d) and (e) In all 6945 persons were arrested in connection with these riots. Action against the guilty persons is being taken as per the provisions of the law.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise

Implication of Caste based reservation

1457. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that Prime Minister has rejected only caste based reservation of jobs; and

(b) if so, what are the implications of this new policy announced by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) The order issued by the Govt. of India on 13-8-1990 providing for 27 per cent of vacancies in the civil services and posts of the Central Govt., Central Public Sector Undertakings and Central financial institutions in favour of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes has been challenged in several writ petitions which are now being heard by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court. The Court has, *inter alia*, directed the pending the hearing of the case, no steps for implementation of the Government order of 13-8-1990 excepting the identification of castes to be benefited shall be taken The Government is therefore, awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court in this regard as the matter is subjudice

Akali Dal (Badal) General Secretary's statement

1458 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Akali Dal (Badal) General Secretary, Shri Wadala, has declared that Punjab is not a part of India; if so, what is Government's response thereto;

(b) the measures proposed and undertaken to counter the sessessionist activities in Punjab; and

(c) whether Prime Minister has visited Punjab recently; if so, what attempts were made by him to solve the Punjab problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of Punjab on 4-12-1990 while ad-

dressing a press conference at Jalandhar Shri Kuldip Singh Wadala, General Secretary S. A. Dal (Badal) declared that Punjab had never been an integral part of India. This statement has not been supported by the various factions including S. A. Dad (Badal) whose leaders have stated that these were the personal views of Shri Wadala. The situation is under close watch with a view to taking appropriate action as and when required.

(c) The Prime Minister visited Punjab on 18-12-90 and generally reviewed the law and order situation in the State

Self-Immolation by students against implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations

1459 SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of students committed self-immolation in various parts of the country against the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have paid any compensation to dependents of such students, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if no compensation has been paid, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being obtained from all States/Union Territory Administrations and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statehood to Pondicherry

1460. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1923 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to grant statehood to Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) to (c) The Government of India are of the view that having regard to the various implications, the time is not opportune to consider the matter at present

Industrial licences granted to Pondicherry

1461. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of new industrial licences granted to the Union Territory of Pondicherry after the National Front Government came to power; and

(b) the number of sick industrial units located for the last 3 years in pondicherry and what steps Government are taking to revive those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) During the period 1-12-1989 to 30-11-1990, three Industrial Licences and five Letters of Intent were granted for setting up industries in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(b) In terms of the information regarding sick industrial units in the country maintained by the Reserve Bank of India, there were 308 sick industrial units in the Small Scale Sector and 3 sick industrial